[Translation]

For Rehabilitation of Militants

2546. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and other States to bring back the misguided youth in the main stream during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) No funds have been allocated to any of the states for this purpose. However, Central Government have sanctioned raising of one CRPF and one BSF battalion for recruitment of surrendered militants of Jammu and Kashmir.

Investigation into Death of a Mysterious Person

2547. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Gumnami Baba Prakaran Mein Kanni Kyo Katti Hai Sarkar" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran', dated January 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Subsidy Direct to Farmers

2548. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam have recommended the restoration of the earlier practice of distributing fertilizer subsidy direct to the farmers;

(b) whether Government will simplify the procedure for distributing the subsidy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No such recommendation has been received from the Government of Assam.

(b) and (c) In addition to subsidy on Urea, which is under Statutory Price Control, Government of India is giving concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic & potassic fertilizers to the farmers on the basis of certified reports of sales received from State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. It has been decided to give 80% as "on account" payment and the balance 20% after verification by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on sales effective from 1st April, 1997.

[Translation]

Setting up of Third Border Wing in Gujarat

2549. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Home Affairs of the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to the Government regarding "setting up of third border wing Home Guard for Frontier Area in Gujarat" during the last three years;

(b) if so, details of such proposals received during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the number of proposals accepted and rejected;

(d) the number of proposals under consideration/ lying pending;

(e) the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the said proposal is to be sanctioned and the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) No proposal was received during the years 1994 and 1995. However, during December 1996, a request was received from the State Government of Gujarat to consider the proposal for raising 3rd Battalion of Border Wing Home Guards. The State Government is seeking to supplement the police presence by raising another battalion of Border Wing Home Guards to curb anti-smuggling operations and other subversive activities. The proposal is under examination in this Ministry.

[English]

Water Scarcity

2550. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Water to be scarce in India by 2005" appearing in *Indian Express* dated January 28, 1997;

(b) if so, whether in the report, India is among the few countries suffering most from the desertification even as water erosion is extensive and severe throughout the Himalayas as reported by the United Nations Global Environment Outlook;

(c) if so, whether the Government have considered the report; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report (1997) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the countries suffering most from desertification in Asia and the Pacific are China, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Pakistan and India. India is also among the countries projected to fall into the water-stress category by 2025 A.D.

(c) and (d) The steps taken by the Government to conserve and augment water resources and erosion and other causative factors of desertification include the adoption of National Water Policy (1987), preparation of national perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, promotion of efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, implementation of Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme, Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme and afforestation programmes.

Pre Examination Coaching to SC/ST Students

2551. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC provided pre-examination coaching to take IAS/IPS examinations during the last two years;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the number of successful candidates out of those who appeared in the examination during the last two years; and

(d) the details of the States/UTs which have submitted proposals to the Central Government to establish the tutorial classes in their respective States for the free coaching classes for SC/ST/OBC persons?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Production of Coconut/Groundnut Oil

2552. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of coconut during 1995-96 and 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of oil produced from the groundnut and coconut, separately in each State during each of the last three years and the annual consumption thereof in the country;

(c) the quantity of oils exported during the said period; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The latest available statistics on State-wise production of coconut for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given below :

	State	Production (Million nuts) 1994-95	1995-96
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1181.4	1231.4
2.	Assam	117.6	126.2
3.	Goa	118.0	119.0
4.	Karnataka	1364.1	1406.5
5.	Kerala	5335.1	5905.7
6.	Maharashtra	178.6	169.1
7.	Orissa	234.5	234.5
8.	Tamil Nadu	4345.7	4345.7
9.	Tripura	4.7	4.7
10.	West Bengal	274.4	279.4
11.	A&N Islands	85.4	85.4
12.	Lakshadweep	26.0	26.5
13.	Pondicherry	34.1	33.8
	Total	13299.6	13967.9

(b) No authentic information about the statewise production of edible oils including groundnut and the coconut oil is available. However, the estimated production of groundnut oil and coconut oil is estimated on all India basis during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 have been as under :

(Lakh M. Tonnes)

(Supply from domestic sources)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Groundnut Oil	18.34	17.96	18.40 (tentative)
Coconut Oil	4.00	4.50	4.20 (tentative)